REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 12 is cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to file continuing applications for canceled subject matter. Claim 13 is amended and claims 20-22 are added to encompass infringing subject matter. No new matter has been added.

Applicant is grateful for the courtesies extended to him and the undersigned representative during the personal interview conducted on October 8, 2003. The substance and effect of the interview are incorporated in the above claim amendments and the Remarks below.

The Office Action rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yang (U.S. Patent No. 4,446,153). Claim 12 has been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting, the Office Action provisionally rejects claim 12 over (1) claims 14-20 of copending Application No. 10/269,870 and (2) claims 1 and 5 of copending Application No. 09/505,680. Claim 12 has been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

If anything further could be done to place the above-captioned patent application in better condition for allowance (i.e., via Examiner's Amendment), please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

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Steven M. BESSETTE
Application No. 09/604,157

Please grant any extension of time deemed necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to Deposit Account No. **14-1140**.

Respectfully submitted,

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